

Barbering for novices

Level 1

Brought to you by: Urban Shave Barbershop Pty Ltd
T/A Hawthorn barbershop



Course run and structured by: Andy Thirdborough BSc
master barber

Consultation

Consultation is the most important part of service: Getting the consultation right is key to getting the haircut right. The consultation is done before the haircut and is a verbal agreement between the barber and the customer. During the consultation you get to know who your client is, their lifestyle, and the type of job that they have. From there you can suggest a hairstyle that might suit them and tell them what is required to maintain that style, such as a wax. In the consultation you also will show the client how much hair you will take off during a haircut. With a good consultation you greatly reduce the likelihood of giving the client something that he doesn't want. And once a client becomes your regular, then you likely won't need to give a consultation anymore since you already know what they want.

1. 1 Face shapes

Like your clothes, haircuts aren't one-size-fits-all, but unlike your clothes, you can't take a terrible haircut off at the end of a day.

Oval: Face length is greater than the width of the cheekbones, and forehead is greater than the jawline. The angle of the jaw is rounded rather than sharp.

Square: All measurements are fairly similar. The angle of the jaw is sharp rather than rounded.

Rectangle: Face length is the greatest measurement. Forehead, cheekbones, and jawline are similar in size.

Round: Cheekbones and face length have a similar measurement, they are larger than forehead and jawline, which also have a similar measurement. The angle of the jaw is soft and much less defined.

Diamond: Face length measures largest, then in descending order: cheekbones, forehead, and smallest is jawline. The chin is pointed.

Heart: Forehead measures greater than the cheekbones and jawline. The chin is pointed.

Triangular: Jawline measures greater than cheekbones, which measure larger than forehead.

Oval



Seen as the ideal face shape for women, an oval may not be the most alpha of face shapes for men, but it's a good canvas for experimentation. Symmetrical and well-proportioned, an oval face shape does pretty much any hairstyle justice.

That said, there are a couple of minor caveats to ensure you optimise your ovalness. The trick with an oval face shape is to wear your hair off the forehead to create some volume and angles on top. The most suitable style is a classic shorter cut: short on the side and slightly longer on the top, with a side-swept parting.

You'll also want to avoid a forward fringe. Too much heaviness on the forehead softens features and increases roundness of the face.

Square



Considered the masculine ideal, a square face shape is characterised by its strong, 50cent shaped jawline, even proportions and an overall chiselled appearance.

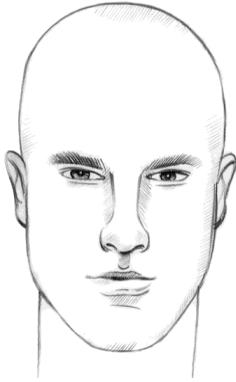
Like the oval, it's a great foundation for most styles and is versatile enough to work with both extremely short and longer hairstyles – from buzz cuts to French crops to quiffs.

Just bear in mind that the shorter you go, the more you look like you've just been drafted. Not that that won't serve you well.

Classic, neat haircuts complement a square shape best – think close fades, side partings and short layers. Some light stubble also gives the sharpness of the jaw line a little welcome texture without blurring its line.



Rectangle



The longest of the face shapes, a rectangular face falls somewhere between an oval and a square, but requires a subtly tweaked hairstyle to ensure the face doesn't appear even longer than it is. The rectangular face is longer, so it's important to avoid taking the sides too short if keeping length on the top, as this would only accentuate the length of the face. Try a well-proportioned style that doesn't take the sides too short or leave too much length on top.

a style that lets hair fall to the sides and/or across the forehead to add width and ensure that the face doesn't appear narrower than it is.



Round

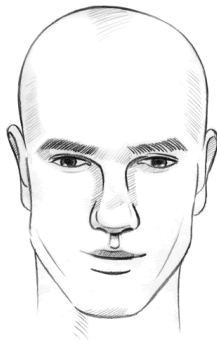


Circular with a rounded chin and no obvious lines or angles, a round face shape benefits from a haircut that lends it some definition.

If you've got a round face shape, think square. Since round faces have little in the way of natural angles, you need to create the illusion of structure with the hair. A style with height on the top that's taken tight at the sides such as a pompadour or a flat top works well to add structure, as do front fringes.



Diamond



Narrow in the chin and brow, with width in the cheeks, the diamond is one of the rarer face shapes, because of that, it has some specialist requirements to ensure it looks its namesake.

Hairstyles that add width at the forehead and chin area are your best bet. Fringes work well to add texture to the forehead, while longer styles that can be tucked behind the ears are great for accentuating a diamond shapes bone structure.

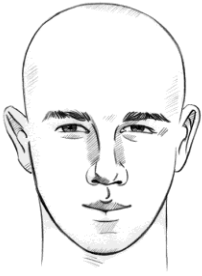
Don't, however, take the sides too short – given the width of the cheekbones, a hairstyle that's particularly short at the sides will only make the ears look bigger.

Softer lines and layers are better for this face shape, working to soften its natural angles.

Try a side sweep or deep side-parting, and consider growing a 5 o'clock shadow if you want to add some size to a narrower chin.



Heart



Wide at the temples and hairline, gradually narrowing to a point at the chin, the (fairly rare) heart face shape benefits from a few optical illusions to make it appear better proportioned.

Avoid cuts that are very tight, as these will accentuate the narrowness of the chin and the width of the forehead. A mid-length swept look is the safest bet. Mid-length and longer styles that are kept reasonably thin and light soften the heart shape's strong forehead.



Triangle





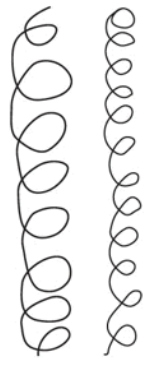

Due to its narrow forehead and wide jaw line, a triangular face requires the opposite treatment of a heart shape.

A style with volume is king with this one. Longer, nose length haircuts with fuller sides add depth.



This is only a guideline as different hair types may not allow these rules to apply. Not all hair styles can be cut the same even if the end result is the same.

2. Hair type

ANDRE WALKER HAIR TYPING SYSTEM			
			
1a 1b 1c	2a 2b 2c	3a 3b	4a 4b
Type 1: Straight Hair Fine to Coarse, Curl Resistant 1c strands are thicker and more coarse than 1a	Type 2: Wavy Hair Fine & Thin to Coarse & Frizzy	Type 3: Curly Hair Loose Curls to Corkscrew Curls	Type 4: Kinky Hair Tightly Coiled to Z-angled Coils

Type 1: Straight

The main characteristics of straight **S1a** hair are:

- Hangs loose and free.
- Sleek.
- Shiny (reflects light easily).
- Hard to damage.
- Very hard to curl.
- Easily becomes oily.

Type 2: Wavy

It lies between straight and curly hair. There are three sub categories: **W2a**, **W2b**, and **W2c**. They all form different "S" shaped curves or curls.

- W2a is thinner than other two forms; as a matter of fact, 2A hair is fine. Strands have just a hint of a bend in them. S-waves are loose and stretched out throughout the hair.

This type can easily be styled straight or curly.

- W2b is a little thicker, with S-waves being shorter, more distinct.

- W2c is thick and coarse, with very distinct S-waves.

- Both 2b and 2c are more resistant to styling.

- Wavy hair is more susceptible to frizz.

- Has little bounce.

- It has more shine than curly hair, but less than straight.

Type 3: Curly

It has a much tighter curl pattern. It is categorized in **C3a**, **C3b** and **C3c**. All three subcategories form a definite "S". The only difference is in the size of the curl.

- 3A hair type has a looser curl pattern – spiral curls.

- 3B hair has a tighter curl pattern - ringlets.

- 3C hair has a very tight curly look - corkscrews.

- Wavy hair has a lot of body.

- Can be styled in different styles.

- Does not have lots of sheen.

- Prone to damage.

- Easily frizzes in the humid climate.

Type 4: Kinky

Most African-American men have this hair type. It has extremely defined curls which are tightly coiled. There are also three varieties: **K4a**, **K4b** and **K4c**.

- K4a has a tightly coiled "S" pattern to it.
- K4B/C is more wiry with a zig-zag pattern.
- Kinky hair is driest of all types.
- It is most fragile of all other types.
- Has very little elasticity.
- It breaks very easily.

Fine Hair Type

Fine hair has a diameter of 50 microns. Fine hair reflects light the best. When it is healthy, fine hair will often have a natural shine. Blondes have fine hair most often, since blonde hair is the thinnest.

Fine hair is:

- Soft
- Shiney
- Limp
- Flyaway
- Lifeless
- Flat

Fine hair is much easier to damage than medium or coarse hair. The biggest problem with fine hair is to gain volume and get hair to hold a style.

To gain volume, colour and heat style your hair and it will hold a style easier. Use volumizing products and styling gels and mousses. Use a gentle shampoo.

It is also important to use a lightweight conditioner! Put conditioners onto the lengths and ends of your hair rather than the roots.

A short blunt cut will create the illusion of more hair. Avoid layers and long hair.

The general rule for fine hair is that the shorter it is, the lighter it is and therefore the less limp and flat it is. Streaks are a good idea for fine hair, because they add volume to the hair.

Medium Hair Type

Most people have medium hair. Medium hair is not too thick, not too thin, and has a diameter between 60-90 microns.

Medium hair has lots of body and usually holds either a blow-dry shape or any type of hairstyle very well. It has the most styling flexibility of the three hair types.

Medium hair is:

- Softer than coarse hair.
- More voluminous than fine hair.
- More manageable than fine hair.
- Medium hair is regularly considered as normal hair.

Coarse Hair Type

Coarse hair has a diameter of 100 microns and above.

Coarse hair is:

- Rough
- Wiry
- Heavy

- Wild

- Strong

Coarse hair is often dry. It is hard to process, and can be very resistant to hair colouring, , and straightening. It needs conditioning to keep it under control.

Wear it long so the weight of the hair drags it down. Get a layered cut. Stay away from a blunt cut.

Thick and Thin Hair

Whether your hair is thin or thick depends on the number of hairs on your head not on the thickness of each hair strand.

The average head has between 100,000 and 150,000 hairs, and normal daily fall-out is 50-100 hairs.

People with thick hair have about 150,000 strands on their heads.

People with thin hair have about 90,000 strands on their heads.

Thick hair will look too bushy if cut into a short style. Layer thick your hair since layering adds mobility.

If you hair is thin, short haircuts look best. Adding highlights and lowlights give the illusion of thickness.

Three Ways To Find Out What Your Hair Type Is

First way:

How long does it take for your hair to dry naturally? Your hair is fine or thin if it takes less than an hour to dry.

Your hair is thick if it takes more than an hour to dry.

Second way:

Pull out a single hair.

Put it against a piece of white paper. This way you will identify your hair type much easier.

Fine hair is difficult to see and not easily felt between the fingers.

Medium hair is easily seen against the white paper, but it will not feel wiry between the fingers.

Coarse hair will be very visible against the white paper. It will feel quite wiry between the fingers.

Third way:

Put your thumb and forefinger around it to make a circle.

Your hair is thin if the circle is dime-sized or less.

Your hair is thick if the circle is quarter-sized or more.

Anything in-between is medium thickness or average.

3. Scissor cutting techniques

Bulk cutting

Top cutting: When layering on the top, you want to create the perfect shape for your clients. This will add longevity to the haircut, as when it grows out the shape remains the same. Follow a guide and a methodical system, as this will stop you getting lost and creating different lengths.

Underhand layering is a precision cutting skill that demands control and concentration. It's not only how you hold the hair, but the position you pull it to. Your posture affects the shape you're creating. Keep your elbow tucked in close to the body and ensure you are standing directly in front of each section. When pulling the hair out, do not over direct, as this will change the length. Find your guide and cut along it.

Accuracy is key when working with longer lengths. You need to be in complete control of the shape you are creating. This means breaking the head up into neat sections and following a guide in a systematic way.

Cross checking

After cutting any head of hair the haircut should be checked very thoroughly across the sections to ensure that the haircut is level and even from all angles. This is known as cross-checking. However, remember when cross-checking a fashion cut, not to get too enthusiastic and alter the line or shape of the style, particularly if the angles already cut are very steep.

Check carefully around the sides, front and nape if the hair is long and not tapered . If the hair has been held and cut away from the head, the underneath hair will be slightly longer, leaving wisps of hair which can make the finished line untidy. Unless this was intended to be part of the finished style they should be removed.

Scissor over comb

The scissor over comb technique is one of the most frequently used techniques for barbers. A mastery of this skill is essential for crafting many hairstyles for both men and women, particularly on shorter hair. It allows the barber to cut close to the head, following the hairline for precise results. While clippers result in a shaved look, using scissors results in a softer hairstyle. It's often used to create defined shapes or a look that tapers in at the side areas and nape of the head, by blunting the cut or softening the edges with thinning scissors, the cut can be shaped and styled as desired. The comb plays just as important of a role as the scissors in this technique, helping lift the hair and guide the scissors to shape the cut.

How to Use the Scissor over Comb Technique

To begin a scissor over comb haircut, you'll need to start off with damp hair and remove bulk from the top portion of the haircut. After this you'll be ready to get to work on shaping the bottom half using the scissor over comb technique. Stand to the left or right of the person receiving the haircut, because this will give you a better view of the full head.

Holding the comb in your less dominant hand, you can lift one section of hair at a time. You'll hold the scissors in your dominant hand and cut off hair sticking past the comb, holding the blade parallel to the comb. It's important to keep your scissors blade moving as you cut each section of hair for smooth and consistent ends. Although you'll cut close to the comb, you won't actually touch it unless you're crafting a very short style. The top portion of the scissors will be doing most of the moving, with the bottom blade held stationary in your hand.

Once the first section has been cut, you can use this as your guide for the rest of the sections. As you work onto the next section, you'll want to use your comb to lift some of the cut hair along with the next section to see the length. This will help you keep the comb at a consistent angle and distance from the scalp for consistency. Work your way around the haircut, lifting each section either vertically or diagonally.

Tips for Success

- To prevent horizontal steps from forming in the haircut, it's best to perform this technique fairly quickly. Hesitation could lead to a less even cut.
- When cutting, it's better to open and close the blades fully to ensure that the cutting is completed with the centre portion of the blades. Cutting with the tips could lead to a choppier cut, when what you're aiming for with the scissor over comb technique is blended consistency.
- Long scissor blades tend to work better for this technique, as with shorter scissors your hand may get in the way of the cut. This could lead to choppiness or even horizontal steps in the haircut.

Chipping in to the hair to Texturize with scissors

Texturizing breaks up a shape, which will add texture, movement, de-weight and make it easier to style. These are very important elements that make the haircut more manageable for your clients.

There are two techniques that can be used here, either on their own or together, however err on the side of caution, as a mistake could take out more hair than you wanted and ruin the cut. If you over texturize you will destroy the shape, and the cut won't last as long when it grows out. Work in a methodical system,

The first technique is to pick up the hair as you would if bulk cutting and use a point cutting technique chip in to the end of the hair, be careful not to cut in to your finger, when training this can happen quite a lot, so be warned and have plenty of plasters on hand.

The second technique is to put the comb into the hair as close to the head as you can and move the comb from the front of the head to the back (crown area) and as the hair lifts use your scissors to chip bits out above the comb.

Texturizing with Texturizing scissors

Use the texturizing “scissor over comb”, same technique as “scissor over comb” to soften out a beautiful fade and to add even more of a ‘blur’ effect. Using the scissors in different ways create different effects. To remove weight, keep the scissor close to the comb. To soften a blend, distance the scissor from the comb so you’re at the tips of the hair.

You can also use the texturizing scissors in the same way and with the same techniques you use with scissors.

DO NOT EVER use your texturizing scissors to bulk thin the hair you can’t see what you are taking out, although this may work on ladies hair it will not work on men’s short styles.

4. Clipper cutting

Clipper over comb

Clipper over comb is a fundamental blending technique. It helps to create the perfect square shape by removing length that overhangs the clipper work. Line up the base of the comb with the clipper work underneath, and remove anything overhanging by using a horizontal swiping motion with the clippers.

Clipping with attachments

For getting even short cuts you can use attachments for your clippers. It is best for grading to start with a higher number grade and go down in size for the required length this will allow a smooth graduating affect but be careful, a haircut can be ruined if the technique is done wrong . You should have a steady motion of going in at the bottom of the hair line then moving the clippers in an upward motion, and as you go up steadily pulling the clippers out from the head. Never clipper in to the crown area, keep the clippers on a constant outward motion, you should never at this stage of training be angling the clippers inward on the head unless it is an all-over buzz cut.

Tapering

You should try to taper all edges of the hair cut this gives a better overall look to the shape and keep the cut soft with no heavy lines. You can do this with either scissors or clippers. Keeping the comb close to the head at the bottom of the hair line, begin cutting slowly moving the comb up the head and at the same time moving the comb in an outward movement. Do this technique even if the customer is having it squared off.

Shape Up

Shaping up is a finishing technique, using a straight razor to enhance your outlines and edges. First, create your outlines with your mini trimmers or detailers DO NOT cut into the hair line! People have been taught this this in the past, but it is wrong and a true barber would never do this. Then you can touch up with a razor for the crispest of looks. With your weaker hand, stretch using maximum skin elasticity, for a smoother stroke with the razor. Use a gel if skin is irritable.

5. Blow drying

You should always blow-dry the hair before you put the finishing touches to the cut. I would suggest doing this after you have cut the top and taken the bulk of the sides, but before the final blending is done. This is so you can start to see the general shape of the hairstyle, preventing any cutting that could be detrimental to the overall look. I would use a blow-dry spray as long as it's not too sticky so you can steel cut easily, this will help form the shape you are looking for and give you plenty of volume, this will make scissor over combing easier for you.

6. Beards

Lining up the beard is a tricky task- you have to get it even. Begin with a pair of detailers to carve the shape you wish. Talk to the client and agree on this. Once you have created the basic shape, use a straight razor to add definition to the edges created. If you feel the skin can handle it, keep the skin dry. This will create even sharper lines.